

ARGUMENTS AND REMARKS

After the foregoing amendments, claims 3 and 4 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2 and 5-18 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 4 to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is allowable. Amended claim 3 depends from claim 4 and therefore, is also allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention because claim 1 contained the phrase "corrugated cloth type support." Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice. In claim 4, "corrugated cloth type support" has been amended to "corrugated cloth support." Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35

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U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1-4 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0027999 A1 (Azima et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Serial No. 5,818,950 (Sakamoto). Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection moot. Claim 4, which was indicated as allowable, has been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is allowable. Claim 3 depends from claim 4 and therefore, is also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103 rejection.

Conclusion

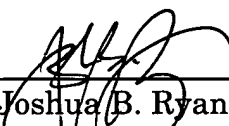
If the Examiner believes that any additional, minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that an interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 3 and 4, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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